



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, January 17, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK led with a report that British Prime Minister May is expected to deliver a speech this evening Japan time, saying that she may announce the UK's withdrawal from the EU's single market. NTV and Fuji TV gave top play to the 22nd anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake today. TBS led with a report that two children were injured when a car plowed into a group of schoolchildren crossing the street this morning in Hyogo Prefecture. TV Asahi gave top play to a report on a car accident in Gifu involving an elderly driver.

## AMBASSADOR

### Kishida, Suga express appreciation to Ambassador Kennedy

Jiji Press reported that Ambassador Kennedy and Foreign Minister Kishida held a meeting at the MOFA Iikura Guest House on Monday. Kishida expressed his appreciation to the Ambassador by saying that her actions and personality have helped realized such great achievements as President Obama's visit to Hiroshima and Prime Minister Abe's visit to Pearl Harbor. Meanwhile, TBS reported on press remarks made on Monday by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, during which he expressed his heartfelt appreciation for Ambassador Kennedy's contributions to strengthening the U.S.-Japan alliance.

- [Ambassador Kennedy noted for excellent coordination ability](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan gov't "highly praises" outgoing U.S. envoy Kennedy's work](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Caroline Kennedy calls ambassador role in Japan her 'greatest privilege' in farewell message](#) (The Japan Times)

## INTERNATIONAL

### Japan, U.S. making final arrangements for bilateral summit

NHK reported at noon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga announced at a press conference this morning that the governments of the U.S. and Japan are making final arrangements for a bilateral summit to be held soon after President-elect Trump is sworn in on Jan. 20. Suga reportedly said that Prime Minister Abe and President-elect Trump agreed at their informal meeting to meet again at an appropriate time after the inauguration, adding: "We are hoping to schedule the summit at an early date and are making final arrangements."

- [South Korea lawmakers raising funds for Takeshima 'comfort women' statue](#) (Japan Times)
- [Kantei cautious about returning ambassador to South Korea](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: World economy needs protection from protectionism](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Trump's unpredictability poses risk factor for world / China, Russia moves to force change unacceptable](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Trump's criticism of Japan on trade out of date, based on mistake of fact](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Donald Trump's discrimination of media outlets unacceptable](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Duterte leaves door open for US role in South China Sea](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, Australia vow to work closely with U.S. under Trump](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Japan should step up close maritime cooperation with others over China](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan, Indonesia agree to boost maritime ties](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, Vietnam to cooperate on TPP](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe's aide brands Trump "hysterical," urges gentleness](#) (Kyodo News)
- [R. Armitage and K. Nealer: What any US president needs to know about Asia policy](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Trump should uphold Obama's Asia-focused policies](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: There are no winners if Taiwan Strait tensions worsen](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

## SECURITY

### Okinawa paper skeptical about agreement on scope of civilian component

Ryukyu Shimpo ran a front-page report on the signing on Monday by Ambassador Kennedy and Foreign Minister Kishida of a bilateral agreement that clarifies the scope of the civilian component covered by the SOFA. The paper wrote that although the GOJ is hoping that the pact will help to prevent crimes by civilian contractors because the U.S. military's control of these workers will be

strengthened under the new agreement, it remains to be seen whether the pact will be effective because it is unclear how many workers will be excluded from the scope of the civilian component.

### **U.S. Navy ship discharged sewage into sea in Okinawa**

Okinawa Times gave top play to a report by British journalist Jon Mitchell, who claimed that he learned from an in-house U.S. Navy report obtained through the Freedom of Information Act that the USS Bonhomme Richard discharged 151,416 liters of sewage into the sea when it was berthed at the White Beach Naval Facility in Okinawa on Jan. 27, 2015. The paper wrote that the sewage is suspected to have come from bathrooms and medical and cleaning facilities on the ship. The paper also wrote that the Japanese side was not informed about the discharge.

- [Gist of pact regarding civilian U.S. base workers in Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Opinions differ on effectiveness of accord limiting SOFA civilian component](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Consider stronger missile defenses from a variety of perspectives](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Military-related research could distort essence of universities](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

## **ECONOMY**

- [Japan to stop coddling its rice farmers](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Toshiba's loss is due mostly to feed-in tariff contracts](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan Post stock sale hinges on market staying strong](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan snags 25-year extension on Abu Dhabi oil concessions](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Technology stars expand links with auto industry](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## **SCIENCE**

- [Japan's bid to launch world's smallest satellite-carrying rocket fails](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's low-cost rocket fails at first launch](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Australian gov't criticizes Japan's Antarctic whaling operations](#) (Kyodo News)

## **POLITICS**

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 16](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 15](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 14](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 13](#) (Nikkei)
- [JCP chief vows not to roll back opposition tie-up for election](#) (Jiji Press)

- [Editorial: Gov't proposal to criminalize 'conspiracy' too broad](#) (The Mainichi)

## EDUCATION

- [Japan sees sharp rise in number of foreign nursing care students](#) (Kyodo News)

## OPINION POLLS

- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)

## TV PROGRAMS

### [Video footage captured of black bear family in Tochigi](#)

Sunday evening's "NHK Special" showed video footage of black bears in the mountains in Ashio, Tochigi Prefecture, taken by local photographer Hiroshi Yokota who has been following black bears in the area for the last 28 years. The video reveals new insights into the lives of black bears, including how mother bears raise and breastfeed their cubs.

### [Mega Crisis: Part 3 – Deadly pandemics](#)

Saturday evening's "NHK Special" reported on the possibility of a deadly pandemic occurring in the future. The program said an H5N1-type avian influenza virus was detected in poultry farms in Niigata and other parts of Japan this winter, adding that what is most feared is that the mutation of such avian flu viruses could cause a new type of influenza to spread among people. The program said the government estimates that such an epidemic could result in as many as 640,000 deaths in Japan.

Japan and other Asian nations are monitoring influenza viruses found in livestock and wild animals in order to take measures against unknown viruses, adding that a research team at Hokkaido University has already found about 20 kinds of new viruses in Africa. Due to rapid globalization, a pandemic could spread around the world in an instant. The program also reported on ongoing efforts to contain the Zika virus, saying that it was recently found that the virus affects not only pregnant women but also the brains of adults. Although measures are being studied in the U.S. to eradicate mosquitoes through genetic recombination, some people are concerned that this would disrupt the ecosystem.

